

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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13 October 1953

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WH FIELD MEMORANDUM
NO. 138-53

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL WH FIELD STATIONS

SUBJECT : Communism in Guatemala

REFERENCES: DIR 49992, WH Field Memoranda 50-53 and 81-53

1. Headquarters wishes to re-emphasize that the SUBJECT continues to be considered top priority for KUGOWN action. This does not mean that Stations are to drop, or slight, existing local KUGOWN programs, but every effort should be made to incorporate material re the SUBJECT into local KUGOWN activities whenever possible.

2. It is anticipated that propaganda re the SUBJECT will be needed throughout SGRANGER for some months to come, hence Stations should attempt to make arrangements for prolonged placement of SUBJECT KUGOWN materials and for taking KUGOWN actions re the SUBJECT.

3. Headquarters is prepared to aid the Stations immediately with the following support items:

A. Supplemental funds for support of specific SUBJECT KUGOWN operations after approval by Headquarters;

B. KMFORGET materials re the SUBJECT;

C. Photographs and cartoons (in mat form or originals) concerning SUBJECT conditions and personalities;

D. Guidance as to objectives and themes re the SUBJECT; and

E. Operational suggestions.

4. Headquarters appreciates the replies to the REFERENCES and hopes that the above support may prove useful to Stations. "Support items" mentioned in paragraph 3 B, D and E will go to all Stations as a matter of routine, however, in order for a Station to obtain items 3 A and C, a specific request must be made, accompanied by a brief description of use to be made of A & C type materials.

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5. The requests in the first and last sentence of Field Memorandum 81-53 remain in effect. All actions taken re the SUBJECT may be put into the Referenced monthly report rather than in several individual ones--but--requests for Headquarters support should be made through individual dispatches.

[OLIVER G. GALBOND]

*See ATTACHMENTS

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ATTACHMENT I

I. OBJECTIVES: *

- A. Create a picture of Guatemala featuring a general state of oppression, chaos and justified unrest.
- B. Gain as much sympathy as possible for the non-Communists and anti-Communists in Guatemala, and for the anti-Communist exiles who are fighting against Guatemalan Communism.
- C. Use Guatemala as an example of what can happen anywhere in the Hemisphere if Communists are given an opportunity to gain power. Draw comparisons between what the Communists have already done in Guatemala and what they are trying to do locally.
- D. Stir up hatred against the present government of Guatemala and its local representatives.

"Background material may be obtained from the Mexican Boletin, KMFORGET, a Central American Boletin which will be forthcoming, and other background materials which Headquarters will dispatch from time to time.

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ATTACHMENT II

THEMES

I. General Discription of Guatemalan Life--Taken from BOLETÍN DE (CEUAGE) COMITE DE ESTUDIANTES UNIVERSITARIOS ANTICOMUNISTAS GUATEMALTECOS EN EXILIO, #6, Sepbre. 15 de 1953:

"No es posible glorificar este día en rememoración de los grandes beneficios que nos trajo hace 132 anos, sin que un nudo se nos agolpe en la garganta cuando vemos desde las lejanías del exilio, la campiña guatemalteca tinta en sangre por los crímenes que el comunismo ha venido perpetrando en aquel sufrido pueblo, desde la instauración del gobierno arevalista hasta el presente. Y sin que podamos borrar de nuestra imaginación, como al través de una película macabra, pasa el espectro aterrador de tantos hechos dolorosos: ahí las manifestaciones públicas continuamente acribilladas a balazos; ahí las carnicerías de los minutos de silencio; ahí un Jefe de los Fuerzas Armadas y numerosas militares incorruptibles, asesinados cobardemente; ahí los compañeros Córdova, Lemeke y Deutschmann, bañando con su sangre generosa el árbol de la libertad; ahí la masacre de las manifestaciones en apoyo a los hospicianos; ahí el genocidio de la Base Militar de La Aurora; ahí el último genecidio de Salamé; ahí tantos mártires anónimos exterminados en las salas de tortura; ahí miles de hogares destruidos por el exilio y las prisiones; ahí cientos de ciudadanos encarcelados por procesos falsos; y en fin ahí millares de víctimas del despojo, las torturas, el hambre y del terror marxista que hoy impera en Guatemala."

II. Guatemalan Economy and Communism:

1. Through Communist inspired strikes, calculated to ask private industry for higher wages than it can afford to pay, the Communists have slowly exterminated one private industry after another, replacing the industry with a substitute headed by Commie politicians who have no other qualifications than their membership in the Communist Party.

2. With the constant threat of possible Commie strikes, the incentive for future development of private industry has been eradicated in favor of development by Communist politicians---following the orders of Moscow, rather than the dictates of the Guatemalan people.

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3. As a consequence of the cutting down of private industry and the inefficiency and corruption of the Communist masters, unemployment increases every day and is now estimated at 10,000 in the capital city.

4. The Government hires according to the ideological background of the potential employee. If a man has a record of anti-USSR statements he has no opportunity for a job unless he changes color and backs the red line to the hilt.

5. The Agrarian Reform is a fraud. It claims to give land to the campesinos, but the title of the land always remains in the hands of the Communist controlled Departamento Agrario Nacional. Thus the land is always subject to immediate return to the government in the event the campesino does not perform in accord with Communist demands. Many of the campesinos are unwilling to take over land, due to lack of training and fear of economic failure and consequent ruin. It is significant that the Communist newspaper, Tribuna Popular devotes almost all its advertising space to pleas to the Guatemalans to make use of the Agrarian Reform lands.

6. A 20% gasoline tax has been in effect for several years and was to be used by the government for the building of new and better roads, however, no new roads have been constructed--the Pan American highway remains undone, hospitals and other government projects are abandoned due to absence of roads. The gasoline tax and other taxes have gone into the following projects:

A. Government printing of Communist newspapers and other propaganda media;

B. Government financing of trips of Communists to Communist Congresses throughout the world;

C. Sending Communists to Moscow for training;

D. Support of Communist expansion throughout Latin America;

E. Financing fairs, such as the recent "Book Fair" which was loaded with Communist propaganda materials. It is interesting to note that USSR printed materials outnumbered Guatemalan works;

F. Arming Communist political and labor organizations; and

G. Bribing and graft for leading Commies and Army officers.

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III. Guatemalan Social Structure and Communism:

1. The government is aiding Communist newspapers, radio and other Communist propaganda campaigns and censors any anti-Communist propaganda indicating Guatemalan government support of Communism or any other anti-Communist propaganda which strikes strongly at Communism in Guatemala.

2. The Tribuna Popular and other Communist publications are given free to government employees who are forced to take the publications home with them due to fear of loss of job or worse.

3. All Guatemalan government social agencies such as Social Security, Agrarian Reform, Ministry of Education, etc. are being used, more and more each day, as a means of pushing Communist propaganda through tying of any social benefits to Communist interest in Guatemalan welfare.

4. The courts of Guatemala are nothing but a farce since the Supreme Court was removed because it did not agree with the Communists in an Agrarian Reform decision. The government no longer pays any attention to the Constitution nor the established laws of the Republic. The Writ of Habeus Corpus no longer has any meaning.

5. Without authority, police call in the middle of the night and take their victims to various cells for torture and "interrogation". "Interrogation" includes the use of needles, water forced up the rectum, beating of sex organs, whipping and other less refined instruments of examination, and the forcing of confessions.

6. Since the murder of the Jefe de los Fuerzas Armadas, Col. ARANA, any anti-Communist who became too strong in his attacks on local Communism has been tortured, murdered or exiled. Many men who were actively fighting against Guatemalan Communism have been captured, jailed, then executed "while attempting to escape". No lawyers were admitted to the prisoners and the government did not admit holding the prisoners until their deaths were evident. Trials for anti-Communists are a thing of the past.

IV. Guatemalan Army and Communism:

1. The Guatemalan Army is being used by the Communists to carry forth and enforce its programs on the Guatemalan populace in contradiction of the Constitution which lays upon the army the function of defending the nation against outside attack instead of firing into demonstrators, usurping police

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powers and executing campesinos, laborers, students and others who oppose Guatemalan Communism.

2. High Army Officers have been bought through gifts of automobiles, mansions, lands and monetary bribes.

3. ARBENZ fears and distrusts the army as evidenced by the following actions:

A. The building of a civilian armed force composed of Communist politicians and another composed of Communist laborers.
(Data available)

B. Infiltration of Communist agents into the Guatemalan army. (Rumored)

V. Other Themes:

For additional themes, please see DIR 49992 and/or Field Memorandum 50-53.

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